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9 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
10 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

12 Plaintiff,

Case No. 2:21-CR-00137-TOR-1

13 v.

14 CHRISTOPHER ALAN BRISTLIN,

15 Defendant.

16 PLAINTIFF'S SENTENCING  
17 MEMORANDUM

18 Plaintiff, United States of America, by and through Vanessa R. Waldref,  
19 United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, and Alison L.  
20 Gregoire, Assistant United States Attorney, submits the following sentencing  
21 memorandum:

22 I. STATEMENT OF FACTS

23 Investigation of Defendant began when the Minneapolis FBI was able to  
24 locate and search the devices of a subject referred to herein as "Minneapolis  
25 Source." Minneapolis Source used his profile on imgsrc.ru to post still images of  
26 the faces of children depicted in commonly traded child pornography series along  
27 with his email address. These posts implied the subject wished to trade child  
28 pornography. Minneapolis Source confessed to advertising on imgsrc.ru and  
trading child pornography. A search of Minneapolis Source's digital devices and

1 online accounts showed Minneapolis Source sent child pornography to several  
2 people including the holder of the account “the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com.”

3 In Minneapolis Source’s account chat was located starting on January 1,  
4 2020, with “the1theOnlychris@yahoo,” who was later determined to be Defendant,  
5 Christopher Bristlin. The1theOnlychris@yahoo.com, began an email exchange with  
6 Minneapolis Source. At least 26 messages were sent/received between them that  
7 day. In the chat, the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com asked Minneapolis Source to send  
8 child pornography depicting a specific child from the imgsrc.ru profile. In  
9 exchange, the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com offered to send sexually explicit content  
10 depicting the sexual abuse of the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com’s eight year old niece.  
11 the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com sent two clothed images of the niece (later  
12 determined to be his actual niece). In response to the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com’s  
13 request, Minneapolis Source sent a total of four child pornography files on January  
14 1, 2020. The1theOnlychris@yahoo.com, sent responses confirming his appreciation  
15 and receipt of the files. By January 3, 2020, the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com, had not  
16 sent any child pornography to Minneapolis Source. On that date, Minneapolis  
17 Source sent an additional child pornography video to  
18 the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com.

19 On February 11, 2020, after the takedown of Minneapolis Source, the FBI  
20 Minneapolis Division received consent to assume his online activity. Using  
21 Minneapolis Source’s account, an Online Covert Employee engaged  
22 the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com in an email exchange wherein  
23 the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com replied, and spoke about his conduct with his niece  
24 specifically:

25 Oh, we ‘play’ pretty much every day. To be honest I just don’t feel  
26 comfortable having any recording or pictures like that. I was going to  
27 do something for ya. Especially since we both find that littler thing  
28 you were sharing very sexy but I just don’t feel comfortable with it. I  
even deleted what you sent me which I’m wishing I wouldn’t have

1 now. All 8 inches of me are rock hard now thinking about her. As  
2 much as I want to see a good full video of that beautiful little thing,  
3 especially her giving head since my niece doesn't really like doing it  
4 (I won't force her to do something she doesn't like) I just can't unless  
we do a secure vid chat.

5 Yahoo identified the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com as Chris Villapondo and  
6 provided IP addresses used to login to the account, some which was traced to  
7 Bristlin's residences.

8 On May 21, 2020, a federal search warrant was executed at the most recent  
9 residence, where Bristlin was then living with his mother and step-father. On  
10 Bristlin's phone two child pornography images were located as well as clothed  
11 images of the niece (that had been distributed to Minneapolis Source) and his own  
12 groin images. On a computer agents located further indicia relevant to the actions  
13 of the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com, to include: imgsrc.ru logs, the user brist\_000 for  
14 imgsrc, Tor Browser software, keyword hits for child pornography titles, and a  
15 folder with photos of Bristlin's sister and her children (to include the niece).

16 Bristlin admitted to being the1theOnlychris@yahoo.com and to trading child  
17 pornography since the age of 11. He repeatedly told agents he had never molested  
18 his niece. Instead, he told like-minded people he molested his niece and offered to  
19 send pictures of the molestation to bait them into sending child pornography to  
20 him. Bristlin stated he had deleted all child pornography images he had received.

21 The niece was interviewed and stated her uncle "Chris" took a video of her  
22 doing cartwheels and saw her underwear. Per the victim, Chris told her he could  
23 see her "private parts where the pee comes out." Victim indicated she asked to put  
24 on shorts, but Chris denied her request. Victim's brother was also interviewed. He  
25 stated he saw the video taping of the cartwheels. Chris watched the video over and  
26 over (though this video was not located on the phone seized). No hands on  
27 molestation was disclosed by either child.  
28

1           II.       SENTENCING CALCULATIONS AND PSIR OBJECTIONS

2           The government agrees Defendant's total offense level is 26, Criminal  
3 History Category is I, and Guideline provision is therefore 63-78 months. The  
4 government has no objection to the calculations in the PSIR.

5           The government does note the PSIR indicates an agreed length of supervised  
6 release, while the plea agreement reads: "The parties acknowledge a mandatory  
7 term of at least five years of supervised release and reserve argument on the  
8 appropriate length to be imposed in this case. " ECF 36 at 10, lines 12-14. The  
9 government understands this will be corrected in the final PSIR.

10           III.       SENTENCING FACTORS UNDER 18 U.S.C. §3553(a)

11           In determining the appropriate sentence, this Court should consider the  
12 factors as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a).

13           1. The nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and  
14 characteristics of Defendant.

15           The circumstances of the offense involve Defendant's sexual interest in  
16 children and his willingness to act on his sexual interest in children through  
17 receiving child pornography to include material portraying prepubescent minors  
18 who had not attained the age of 12 and claiming to have child pornography images  
19 of his own niece to distribute, while distributing photos which, while not child  
20 pornography, were actually of his niece. ECF No. 43 at ¶ 33.

21           Defendant did not have many child pornography images on his devices at  
22 the time the search was conducted—as he indicated, he had deleted the child  
23 pornography images he received. ECF No. 43 at ¶¶ 12, 20. This does not mean  
24 Defendant's misconduct was not just as serious and concerning as that of others  
25 who have maintained child pornography images received.

26           In fact, Defendant's willingness to send photos of his actual niece to other  
27 pedophiles is itself very concerning. Per his offer to Minneapolis Source, he would  
28 send sexually explicit content depicting the sexual abuse of his 8-year-old niece.

1 He then, in fact, sent two clothed images of the female, later determined to be  
2 Defendant's actual niece. ECF No. 43 at ¶ 11. These images were found when  
3 Defendant's devices were searched. ECF No. 43 at ¶ 14. Though the government  
4 wholly agrees this is no where near as serious as it would be if Defendant had  
5 actually produced the photos (as a starting point, Defendant would be facing a  
6 fifteen year mandatory minimum if he actually produced such photos of his niece),  
7 neither is it something that should be ignored or minimized. This was a real child,  
8 in Defendant's life, that Defendant was sexualizing to similarly minded people so  
9 he could gain access to child pornography images of other children.

10 In response Minneapolis Source sent four child pornography videos and  
11 then, two days later sent an additional video. *Id.* Defendant explained that he  
12 appreciated the child pornography sent by Minneapolis Source and continued to  
13 maintain he was molesting his niece and would photograph the same, given the  
14 right conditions:

15 All 8 inches of me are rock hard now thinking about her. As much as I  
16 want to see a good full video of that beautiful little thing, especially  
17 her giving head since my niece doesn't really like doing it (I won't  
18 force her to do something she doesn't like) I just can't unless we do a  
secure vid chat.

19 ECF No. 43 at ¶ 12.

- 20  
21 2. The need for the sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of the  
22 offense, promote respect for the law, and to provide just punishment.

23 The government asks that the Court accept the plea agreement and sentence  
24 Defendant to imprisonment for five (5) years. As the Court is well aware, five  
25 years is the government's typical recommendation in child pornography cases, and  
26 this is such a case. The government does not believe a higher sentence is  
27 necessary. The government is asking for five years, or the same sentence the  
28 government has sought for similarly situated defendants. The government is

1 certainly also well aware that five years' imprisonment is a very significant amount  
2 of time, but the government believes it is necessary.

3 The government also asks the Court to order a 10 year term of supervised  
4 release, which the government believes is justified, particularly in this case, given  
5 Defendant's statements about a minor in his family, and his own statements about  
6 his history with child pornography. Defendant indicated he would search the  
7 platform at issue in this case for underage sexual images and that he received  
8 images from others on the site as well. ECF No. 43 at ¶ 16. He notes he rarely  
9 saved an image, but he did willfully receive and view them. *Id.* Defendant notes  
10 his youngest was "maybe baby aged" though he preferred older, but still young  
11 minors, indicating he did not know why he was sexually attracted to 8-year-old  
12 girls. *Id.*

13 Defendant has a serious issue, and to his credit, he recognizes it. Given the  
14 recognition and the work Defendant has already done, the government is not  
15 seeking a life term or even a twenty year term of supervised release. The  
16 government does ask, however, for a length of supervised release above the  
17 minimum set by statute, to give Defendant resources to succeed.

18 A significant sentence is necessary to reflect the seriousness of the offense,  
19 promote respect for the law and provide just punishment.

20 3. The need for the sentence imposed to afford adequate deterrence to  
21 criminal conduct.

22 Defendant acknowledged repeatedly that he knew child pornography was  
23 wrong, when agents spoke to him, but indicated he has viewed child pornography  
24 on and off since he was 11 or 12 years old. ECF No. 43 at ¶ 17. That is an  
25 appreciable length of time for this now 33 year old to persist in an action he knew  
26 was wrong, but his misconduct was unabated. Defendant merits a significant  
27 sentence.  
28

1 Thus, while Defendant has no scorable criminal history (really none to speak  
2 of absent an older driving offense) and is properly a Criminal History Category I,  
3 that does not mean his history with respect to child pornography is not concerning.  
4 The government maintains the requested five years of confinement and term of ten  
5 years of supervised release is appropriate.

6 4. The need for the sentence imposed to protect the public from further  
7 crimes of Defendant.

8 As has been detailed, Defendant's crime is serious. Defendant's  
9 demonstrated sexual interest in children makes him a real danger to the public.

10 The government maintains five (5) years imprisonment followed by ten (10)  
11 years of supervised release is sufficient, but not greater than necessary, and will  
12 protect the public from further crimes of Defendant.

13 5. The need for the sentence imposed to provide Defendant with needed  
14 educational or vocational training, medical care, or other correctional  
15 treatment in the most effective manner.

16 Defendant indicates he became addicted to controlled substances while  
17 trying to suppress his addiction to child pornography. ECF No. 43 at ¶ 16. He  
18 does not indicate this is an ongoing issue.

19 6. The kinds of sentences available.

20 Defendant is subject to a sentence involving a term of imprisonment.

21 7. The kind of sentence contemplated by the Sentencing Guidelines.

22 The Sentencing Guidelines contemplate a term of imprisonment.

23 8. Any pertinent policy statements issued by the Sentencing Commission.

24 There are no pertinent policy statements in this case.

25 9. The need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparity among defendants with  
26 similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct.

27 Defendant is subject to a sentence similar to others similarly situated.  
28

1 IV. GOVERNMENT’S SENTENCING RECOMMENDATION

2 The government recommends the court impose a sentence of five (5) years  
3 imprisonment as well as a ten (10) year term of supervised release. As of the  
4 writing of this memorandum, no victim has yet sought restitution in this case.

5 Respectfully submitted this 29th day of December 2022.

6  
7 Vanessa R. Waldref  
8 United States Attorney

9 s/Alison L. Gregoire  
10 Alison L. Gregoire  
11 Assistant United States Attorney  
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CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that on December 29, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF System which will send notification of such filing to the following:

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